



silver maple

Acer saccharinum

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

The silver maple tree may grow to 100 feet tall. Its gray or silvery bark is smooth at first, becoming scaly or shaggy as the tree ages. Its five-lobed leaves are opposite in arrangement on the branch. They are pointed at the tip, white on the lower surface, up to six inches long, and up to five inches wide. Reddish flowers grow in dense clusters before the leaves open in the spring. The fruits are a pair of winged seeds that may be up to three inches long.

Natural History

The silver maple grows in bottomland woods. It flowers from late February to early March. The seeds may be carried great distances by wind and water. It is a fast-growing tree that's widely planted in landscapes. Its branches are brittle and easily broken by wind and ice.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.